

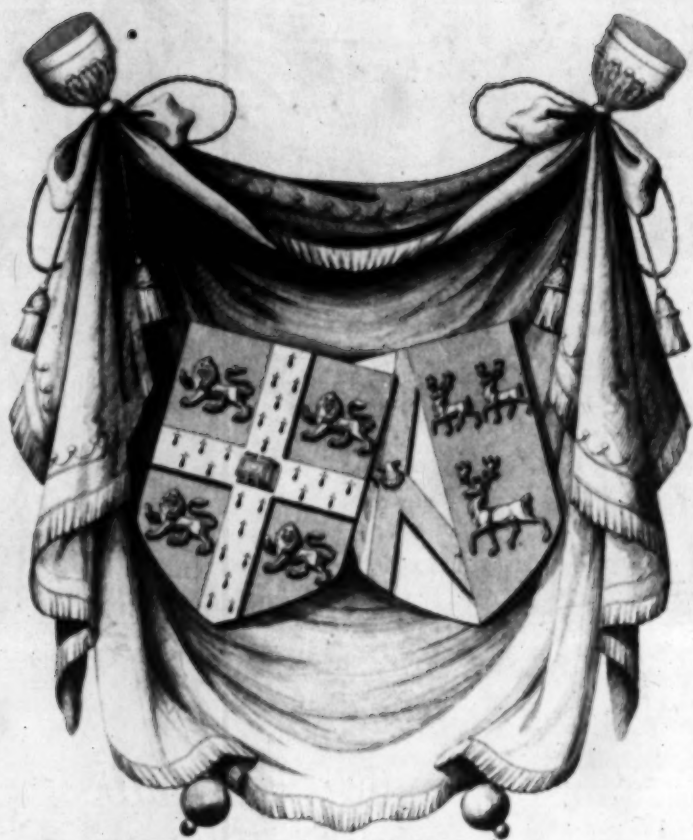
Characters
VPON ESSAIES
MORALL, AND
Diuine, LE. 19.81.

WRITTEN *1611*
For those good Spirits,
that will take them
in good part,

AND
Make use of them to
good purpose.



LONDON
Printed by Edw. Griffin, for Iohn Grillion,
and are to be sold at his shop in
Britaines-Burse. 1615.



Academia Cantabrigiensis
Liber.



TO THE HO-
norable, and my much

Worthy honored, truly learned,

and Iudicious Knight,

Sr Francis Bacon,

his Maties Attourney

Generall,

Increase of honor, health,

and eternall happinesse.



WORTHY

Knight, I

haue read

of many

Essaies, and a kinde of

A 3

Cha-

The Epistle

Charactering of them,
by such, as when I
lookt into the forme, or
nature of their wri-
ting, I haue beene of
the conceit, that they
were but Imitators of
your breaking the ice
to their inuentions;
which, how short they
fall of your worth, I
had rather thinke then
speake, though Truth
neede not blush at her
blame:

Dedicatorie.

blame : Now , for my
selfe vnworthy to
touch neere the Rocke
of those Diamonds, or
to speake in their
praise , who so farre
exceede the power of
my capacitie , vouch-
safe me leaue yet, I be-
seech you , among
those Apes that would
counterfet the actions
of men, to play the like
part with learning, and

A 4 as

The Epistle

as a Monkey, that
would make a face like
a Man, and cannot, so
to write like a Scholler,
and am not : and thus
not daring to aduen-
ture the Print, vnder
your Patronage, with-
out your fauourable
allowance, in the de-
voted seruice of my
bounden duty, I leaue
these poore Trauells
of my Spirit, to the
perusing

Dedicatorie.

perusing of your pleasing
leasure, with the
further fruites of my
humble affection, to
the happie employment
of your honorable
pleasure.

At your service

in all humblenesse

NICH: BRETON.

Dedications.

perusing of your pleasant
lecture, with the
further hopes of my
possible affection, to
the happy employ-
ment of your honora-
ble pleasure.

At your service,

In all humbleness

John: Barton.



To the Reader.



READ what you list,
and understand what
you can : Characters
are not euery mans
construction, though
they be writ in our mother tongue:
and what I haue written, being of no
other nature, if they fit not your hu-
mor, they may please a better : I
make no comparison, because I know
you not, but if you will vouchsafe to
looke into them, it may bee you may
finde something in them ; their na-
tures are diuers, as you may see, if
your eyes bee open, and if you can
make vse of them to good purpose,
your

your wits may prooue the better :
In brieft, fearing the foole will bee
put upon me, for being too busie with
matters too farre aboue my vnder-
standing, I will leaue my imperfe-
ction to pardon, or correction, and
my labour to their liking, that will
not thinke ill of a well meaning : and
so rest

Your well-willing friend,

N. B.

W Ho reads this Booke with a
indicious eye,
Will in true Iudgment, true discretion
try,
Where words and matter close and
sweetly coucht,
Doe shew how truth, wit, art, and
nature toucht.
What need more words these Chara-
cters to praise,
They are the true charactering of
Essaies.

I. R.

I N words of worth, to speake of
these Essayes
Let this suffice, the worke it selfe
will prayse.

C. N.



Some haue an humor, that to dis-
commend
They know themselves, they know not
how to mend.
Other correct, what they doe thinke
amisse:
While in their owne conceit the
error is.
But true iudicious wits, and honest
minde,
Will giue their censure in some better
kinde:
And say but truth, that cannot be
mistooke:
Wit hath well labourde learning in
this Booke.

R. B.





Ad Authorem.

HE that shall read thy characters (*Nic: Breton*)

And weigh them well; must say
they are well written.

They taste the lampe: much reading, obseruation,

Art, matter, wit, all worthy commendation.

Some weaue their lines of such a
slender thred,

They will not last so long, as to be
read.

Thou hast so spunne, so weau'd;
thy words, thy lines

They please vs most being viewd,
a hundred times.

W.D.

In laudem operis.

Words are the pensils, whereby drawne
we finde
The picture of the inward man, the
munde.

Such thoughts, such words; such words, such
is the man.

Say; is this Spirit a Plebey-
an?

That like the singing Lark doth moumt
so high,

We cannot reach them with an earthly
eye.

W. P.

While I Essay to character this Booke,
And these charactured Essays a' relook:
I therein finde few words, great worth involu:
A Lippian stile, terse Phrase: and so resolve,
That as a Stone's best valu'd, and best prized,
When best is knowne: So this, when best revised

I. B.



Wisedome.

WISEDOME is a working Grace in the Soules of the Elect : by whom the Spirit is made capable of those secrets, that neither Nature, nor Reason, is able to comprehend : who, by a powerfull vertue, She hath from the diuine Essence, worketh in all things, according to the will of the Almighty : and, being, before beginning, shall exceede Time, in an eternall proceeding : She is a Light, in the Intellectuall part, by which Reason is led to direct the Sences in their due Course, and Nature is preserved

B

From

from Subjecting her selfe to Imperfection : in the Creation, Shee was of Councell with the Trinitie, in the pleasing of the Deity, in the Redemption, the Inuenter of Mercy, for, the preservation of the Elect, and in the Glorification, the Treasurer of life, for the reward of the faithfull, who, hauing committed to her Care, the cariage of the whole Motion, finding the disposition of earth in all the Children of her Wombe, by such a Measure, as she findes fitting their qualitie, she giues them either the grace of Nature, or the glory of Reason : While being the Mother of the Graces, Shee giues them that holy Instruction, that, in the knowledge of the highest Loue, thorough the pathes of Vertue, makes a passage to Heaven : Learning hath from her, that knowledge without the
which,

which, all knowledge, is meer Ignorance : while, onely, in the Grace of Truth, is seene the Glorie of vnderstanding : Knowledge hath from Her that Learning, whereby, she is taught the direction of her Loue, in the way of life : Vnderstanding hath from her that Knowledge, that keepes Conceit, alwaies in the Spirits comfort : and Judgement, from Vnderstanding, that Rule of Iustice, that by the euen waighe of Impartiality, shewes the hand of Heauen in the heart of Humane : in the Heauens, She keepes the Angels in their orders, teacheth them the Natures of their Offices, and emploies them in the seruice of their Creator : in the Firmament, She walkes among the Starres, sets, and keepes them, in their places, courses, and operations, at her pleasure, She ec-

clipseth the light, and, in a Moment, leaues not a Clowde in the Skie : in Her Thunders, and Lightenings she shewes the Terror of the Highest Vvrath, and in Her temperate Calmes, the patience of his Mercy : in her frostie Winters, she shewes the weaknes of Nature, and in her Sunny Springs, the Recouery of Her health: in the Louers of this world liues no part of her purenesse, but, with Her beloued She makes a Heauen vpon Earth: in the King, she shewes her Grace, in his Councell, her Care, and, in his State, her Strength: in the Souldior, she shewes Vertue, the truest Valor, in the Lawier, Truth, the Honor of his Plea, in the Merchant, Conscience, the wealth of his Soule, and in the Church-man Charity, the true fruit of his Deuotion : She liues in the World, but,

but, not the worlds Loue, for the
Worldes vnworthinesse, is not
capable of her worth : Shee re-
ceiueth Mammon, as a gift from
his Maker, and makes him serue
her vse to his Glory : She giues
Honor, Grace in Bounty, and,
manageth wit, by the Care of dis-
cretion : She shewes the Necessi-
ty of difference, and, wherein is
the happinesse of Vnitie : Shee
puts her Labor, to prouidence,
her hope, to patience, her life, to
her Loue, and, her Loue, to her
Lord : with whom, as chiefe Se-
cretary of his secrets, she writes
his will to the World, and as high
Steward of his Courts, she keeps
Account of all his Tenaunts : in
Sum, so great is her Grace in the
Heauens, as giues her Glory a-
boue the Earth, and, so Infinite,
are her Excellencies, in all the
Course of her Action, and, so

Glorious are the Notes of her Incomprehensible Nature, that, I will thus onely Conclude, farre short of her Commendation : She is Gods Love, and his Angels Light, his Seruants, Grace, and His Beloueds Glory.

Learning.

Learning is the life of Reason, and the Light of Nature, where, Time, Order, and Measure, square out the true Course of Knowledge; where, Discretion, in the Temper of Passion, brings experience to the best fruite of Affection : while, both, the *Theoricke*, and the *Practicke*, labour in the life of Iudgement, till, the perfection of Art, shew the Honor of vnderstanding : She is the
keie

keie of knowledge, that vnlocketh
the Cabinet of Conceit, wherein
are laide vp the Labours of Ver-
tue, for the vse of the Schollers of
Wisedome: where euery gracious
Spirit may finde matter enough
worthy of the Record of the best
Memory: She is the Nurse of Na-
ture, with that Milke of Reason,
that, would make a Childe of
Grace, neuer lie from the Dugge:
Shee is the Schoole-mistris of
Witte, and the gentle Gouvernor
of Will, when, the Delight of vn-
derstanding, gines the Comfort
of Study: She is vnpleasing to
none that knowes her, and vnpro-
fitable, to none that loues her:
She feares not to Wet her feete, to
Wade thorough the Waters of
Comfort, but, comes not neere
the Seas of Iniquitie, where, folly
drownes Affection, in the delight
of Vanity: She opens her Trea-

Charactering

sure to the Trauailers in Vertue,
but, keepes them close from the
Eies of Idlenesse : She makes the
King Gracious, and his Councell,
Iudicious, his Clergie, Deuout,
and, his Kingdome, prosperous :
She giues Honor to Vertue,
Grace, to Honor, Reward, to La-
bor, and, Loue, to Truth : She is
the Messenger of Wisedome, to
the mindes of the Vertuous, and,
the Way to Honor, in the Spirits
of the Gracious : She is the Store-
house of Vnderstanding, where
the Affection of Grace, can not
want Instruction of goodnesse,
while, in the Rules of her directi-
ons, Reason is neuer out of
square : She is the Exercise of
Wit, in the application of Know-
ledge, and the preseruer of the
vnderstanding, in the practise of
Memory : In briebe, she makes
Age honorable, and, youth Ad-
mirable:

mirable, the vertuous, wise, and the wise, gracious: Hir Libraries are infinite, hir lessons without number, hir instruction, without comparison, and hir Schollers without equalitie: In brieft, finding it a laborinth, to go through the grounds of hir praise: Let this suffice, that in all Ages shee hath been, and euer will be, the Darling of wisdom, the delight of wit, the study of vertue, and the stay of knowledge.

Knowledge.

Knowledge is a Collection of vnderstanding, gathered in the grounds of Learning, by the instruction of Wisdom: Shee is the exercise of Memory, in the actions of the Minde, and the
 imployer

imployer of the Senses, in the will
of the Spirit: shee is the Notary
of Time, and the tryer of Truth,
and the labour of the Spirit in
the loue of Vertue: shee is the
pleasure of wit, and the paradise
of Reason, where Conceit gathe-
reth the sweet of Vnderstanding.
Shee is the Kings counsellor, & the
Councells grace, Youths garde,
and Ages glory: It is free from
doubts, and feares no danger,
while the care of Providence cuts
off the cause of Repentance:
shee is the enemy of Idlenesse,
and the maintayner of Labour,
in the care of credit, and pleasure
of profit: shee needs no aduice
in the Resolution of Action,
while Experience in obseruation,
findes perfection infallible: It
cleares Errors, and cannot be de-
ceiued, corrects Impuritie, and
will not bee corrupted: shee
hath

hath a wide eare, and a close
mouth, a pure eye, and a perfect
heart : It is begotten by Grace,
bred by Vertue, brought vp by
Learning, and maintaine by
Loue : shee conuerseth with the
best capacities, and communi-
cates with the soundest Iudg-
ments, dwells with the diuineſt
Natures, and loues the most pati-
ent dispositions : Hir hope is a
kind of Assurance, hir faith a con-
tinuall expectation, hir loue an
apprehension of Ioy, and hir life
the light of Eternitie : Hir la-
bours are infinite, hir wayes are
vnſearcheable, hir Graces incom-
parable, and hir Excellencies in-
explicable : and therefore, being
ſo little acquainted with hir
worth, as makes me bluſh at my
vnworthineſſe, to ſpeake in the
leaſt of hir praiſe : I will onely
leaue hir aduancement to Vertue,
hir

hir honour to Wisdome, hir grace
to Truth, and to Eternitie; hir
glory.

Practise.

PRactise, is the Motion of the
Spirit, where the Sences are
all set to worke in their Natures,
where, in the fittest employment
of Time, Reason maketh the best
use of vnderstanding: Shee is the
Continuance of knowledge in the
Ease of Memory, and, the Honor
of Resolution in the effect of Iudg-
ment. Shee plants the Spring,
and reapes the Haruest, makes
labour sweet, and patience, com-
fortable: Shee hath a foot on the
earth, but, an eye at heauen, where
the prayer of faith findes the feli-
citie

citie of the Soule : in the fruit of
Charity, she shewes the nature of
Devotion, and in the Mercy of
Justice, the Glory of government.
Shee giues Time honour, in the
fruit of Action, and Reason,
grace, in the application of know-
ledge : She takes the height of the
Sunne, walkes about the world,
sounds the depth of the Sea, and
makes her passage thorough the
waters. She is ready for all occa-
sions, attendeth all persons, works
with all instruments, and finisheth
all actions : Shee takes Invention
for her teacher, makes time, her
seruant, method her direction,
and place her habitation : Shee
hath a wakefull eye, and a wor-
king braine, which fits the mem-
bers of the body, to the seruice of
the spirit : Shee is the Physitians
agent, and the Apothecaries be-
nefactor, the Chirurgions wealth,
and

and the Patients, patience : Shee brings time, to labor, and care, to contentment : learning to knowledge, and vertue to honour : in Idlenesse shee hath no pleasure, nor acquaintance with Ignorance, but in Industry, is her delight, and in vnderstanding, her grace : Shee hath a passage thorough all the Predicaments, shee hath a hand in all the Artes, a property in all professions, and a qualitie in all conditions : in briebe, so many are the varieties of the manners of her proceedings, as makes me fearefull to follow her too farre in obseruation, lest, being neuer able to come neere the height of hir commendation, I be inforced, as I am, to leaue hir wholly to admiration.

Patience

Patience.

PAtience is a kind of heavenly Tenure, whereby the Soule is held in possession, and a sweet temper in the Spirit, which restraineth nature from exceeding reason in passion. Hir hand keeps time in his right course, and hir eye pierceth into the depth of vnderstanding: Shee attendeth wisdom in all hir works, and proportioneth time, to the necessitie of matter: Shee is the poyson of Sorrow in the hope of Comfort, and the paradise of conceit in the ioy of peace: Hir tongue speakes seldome, but to purpose, and hir foot goeth slowly, but surely: Shee is the imitator of the Incomprehensible in his passage to perfection

fection, and a seruant of his will
in the mappe of his workman-
ship : in Confusion, Shee hath
no operation, while she only ca-
rieth hir conceit, with the consi-
deration of experience : Shee
trauailes farre, and is neuer wea-
ry; and giues ouer no worke, but
to better a beginning : Shee
makes the King mercifull, and the
Subiect loyall, Honour gracious,
and, Wisdome glorious : Shee
pacifieth wrath, and puts off re-
venge, and, in the humilitie of
charitie, shewes the nature of
Grace : Shee is beloued of the
Highest, and imbraced of the wi-
sest, honoured with the worthiest,
and graced with the best : Shee
makes imprisonment, Liberty,
when the minde goeth thorough
the world, and in sicknesse findes
health, where death is the way to
life : Shee is an Enemie to pas-
sion

tion, and knowes no Purgatory ;
thinkes fortune a fiction, and
builds onely vpon Providence :
Shee is the sick-mans Salue, and
the whole mans preseruer : the
Wise-mans staffe, and the good-
mans Guide : In summe, not to
wade too farre in hir worthinesse,
lest I be drownd in the depth of
wonder, I will thus end, in hir end-
lesse Honour : Shee is the grace
of Christ, and the vertue of Chri-
tianitie, the praise of Goodnesse;
and the preseruer of the world.

Loue.

LOVE is the life of Nature, and
the ioy of Reason, in the Spi-
rit of Grace ; where vertue draw-
ing affection, the concord of
Sense, makes an vnion vnsepara-

C

ble

ble in the diuine apprehension of the ioy of Election, it is a raiſhment of the Soule, in the delight of the Spirit: which, being caried aboue it ſelfe, into inexplicable comfort, ſeeles that heavenly ſickneſſe, that is better than the worlds health, when the wiſeſt of men, in the ſwounding delight of his ſacred Inſpiration, could thus vtter the ſweetneſſe of his paſſion:

My Soule is ſicke of Loue. It is a healthfull ſickneſſe in the Soule, a pleaſing paſſion in the Heart, a contentiue labour in the Minde, and a peacefull trouble of the Senſes: it alters natures in contrarieties, when difficultie is made eaſie, paine, made a pleaſure, po- uerty, riches, and imprifonment, liberty: for the content of conceit, which regards not to be an abieſt, in being ſubieſt, but to an obieſt: it reioyceth in truth, and knowes

knowes no inconstancie, it is free from Ielousie, and feareth no fortune: it breakes the rule of Arithmetricke, by confounding of number, where the coniunction of thoughts make one minde in two bodies, where neither figure, nor cipher, can make diuision of vnion: it sympathies with life, and participates with light, when the eye of the minde, sees the ioy of the heart: it is a predominant power, which endures no equalitie, and yet, communicates with reason, in the rules of Concord: it breeds safety in a King, and peace, in a kingdome, Nations vnitie, and Natures gladnesse: It sings in labour, in the ioy of hope, and makes a paradise in reward of desert: it pleads but mercy, in the iustice of the Almighty; and but mutuall Amitie, in the nature of Humanitie: In

summe, hauing no Eagles eye, to looke vpon the Sunne, and fearing to looke too high, for feare of a chip in mine eye, I will in these few words, speake in praise of this peerelesse vertue: Loue is the grace of nature, and the glory of reason, the blessing of God, and the comfort of the world.

Peace.

PEACE, is a Calme in Conceit, where the Senses take pleasure, in the rest of the Spirit: It is Natures holy day after Reasons labour, and Wildoms musique in the Concords of the minde: It is a blessing of Grace, a bounty of Mercy, a prooffe of Loue, and, a preseruer of life: It holds no Arguments, knowes no quarrells, is
an

an enemy to sedition, and a continuance of Amity: It is the root of plenty, the Tree of pleasure, the fruit of Love, and the sweetness of life: It is like the still Night, where all things are at rest, and the quiet sleep, where dreams are not troublesome: or the resolved point, in the perfection of knowledge, where no cares, nor doubts make controversies in opinion: it needs no watch, where is no feare of Enemy, nor Solicitor of Causes, where Agreements are concluded: It is the intent of Law, and the fruit of Justice: the end of Warre, and the beginning of Wealth: It is a grace in a Court, and a glory in a Kingdom, a blessing in a Family, and a happiness in a Commonwealth: It fills the rich mans coffers, and feeds the poore mans labour: It is the Wise-mans study,

and the Good-mans ioy : who loue it, are gracious, who make it, are blessed, who keep it are happy, and who breake it, are miserable : It hath no dwelling with Idolatry, nor friendship with falshood, for hir life is in Truth, and in hir, all is *Amen*. But lest in the Iustice of Peace, I may rather be reprooued for my Ignorance of hir worth, then thought worthy to speake in hir prayse, with this only Conclusion, in the commendation of Peace, I will draw to an end, and hold my peace : It was a message of Ioy at the birth of Christ, a song of Ioy, at the imbracement of Christ, an assurance of Ioy, at the death of Christ, and shall be the fulnesse of Ioy, at the coming of Christ.

Warre

Warre.

WARRE is a scourge of the wrath of God, which by famine, fire, or sword, humbleth the spirits of the Repentant, tryeth the patience of the Faithfull, and hardneth the hearts of the yngodly: it is the misery of Time, and the terror of Nature, the dispeopling of the Earth, and the ruine of hir Beauty: Hir life, is Action, hir food; Bloud, hir honour, Valor, and hir ioy, Conquest. Shee is Valors exercise, and Honors aduenture, Reasons trouble, and Peaces enemy: shee is the stout mans loue, and the weake mans feare, the poore mans toile, and the rich mans plague: shee is the Armourers Benefactor, and the

Chirurgions agent, the Cowards
ague, and the Desperats ouer-
throw : she is the wish of Enuy,
the plague of them that wish hir,
the shipwracke of life, and the
agent for death ; The best of hir
is, that shee is the seasoner of the
body, and the manager of the
minde, for the induring of labor,
in the resolution of action : shee
thunders in the Aire, rips vp the
Earth, cuts thorough the Seas,
and consumes with the fire : shee
is indeed the inuention of Ma-
lice, the worke of Mischiefe, the
musique of Hell, and the daunce
of the Deuill : she makes the end
of Youth vntimely, and of Age
wretched, the Cities sacke, and
the Countries beggery : shee is
the Captaines pride, and the
Captiues sorrow, the throat of
bloud, and the graue of flesh :
shee is the woe of the world, the
punish-

punishment of sinne, the passage of danger, and, the Messenger of destruction: she is the wise mans warning, and the fooles paiment, the godly mans grieve, and, the wicked mans game: In summe, so many are her woundes, so mortall her cures, so dangerous her course, and, so deuikish her deuises, that, I will wade no further in her riuers of bloud, but, only, thus conclude in her description: she is Gods curse, and Mans misery, hells Practise, and earthes Hell.

Valor.

VAlor is a Vertue in the spirit, which keepes the flesh in subiection: Resolues without feare, and trauailes without fainting:

ting: she vowes no villany, nor,
breakes her fidelity, she is patient
in captiuity, and pittifull in con-
quest: Her gaine is honor, and,
desert her meane, fortune, her
skorne, and folly, her hate: wise-
dome is her guide, and conquest
her grace, clemency, her praise,
and humilitie, her Glory: she is
youthes ornament, and ages ho-
nor; natures blessing, and Ver-
tues loue: Her life is resolution,
& her loue, victory, her triumph,
truth, and her fame, vertue: Her
armes are from antiquitie, and,
her cote, full of honor, where, the
title of grace, hath her Herauldry
from heauen. she makes a walke
of warre, and a sport of danger,
an ease, of labour, and a Iest, of
death: she makes famine, but ab-
stinence, want, but, a patience,
sickenesse, but a purge, and death,
a puffle: she is the Maintainer of
warre,

warre, the Generall of an army,
the terror of an Enemy, and the
glory of a campe: she is the No-
blenesse of the minde, and the
strength of the Body, the life of
hope, and the death of feare: with
a handfull of men, shee ouer-
throwes a multitude, and with a
wordaine amazement, shee discom-
fortes a Campe: she is the reuenge
of wrong, and the defence of
right, Religions Champion, and
vertues choise: In briebe, let this
office in her commendation: she
strengthened *Dauid*, and conquere-
d *Goliath*, shee ouerthrowes her
enemies, and conquers her selfe.

Resolution.

Resolution.

RESolution is the Honour
 Valor, in the quarrell of Ver-
 tue, for the defence of Right, and
 Redresse of Wrong: She, beates
 the March, pitcheth the Battaille
 plants the Ordinance, and Main-
 taines the fight: Her Eare is stop-
 ped from Disswasions, her Eie aims
 only at Honor, her hand takes the
 Sword of Valor, and her heart
 thinkes of nothing, but victory:
 Shee giues the Charge, makes the
 Stand, Assaults the fort, and en-
 ters the Breach: Shee breakes the
 Pikes, faceth the Shot, dampes
 the Souldior, and defeats the
 Army: Shee looseth no time,
 slippes no Occasion, dreads no
 danger, and, Cares for no force;
 she

he is Valors life , and vertues
loue , Iustice Honor , and , Mer-
ies Glorie : Shee beates downe
Castles , fires Shippes , Wades
thorough the Sea , and Walkes
thorough the World : She makes
Wisdomes , her Guide , and Will ,
her Seruant , Reason , her Compa-
tion , and Honor , her Mistris :
She is a Blessing in Nature , and a
Beauty , in Reason , a Grace in In-
vention , and , a Glory in Action :
She studies no plots , when her
platforme is set downe , and defers
no time , when her houre is pre-
fixt : Shee standes vpon no
helpes , when she knowes her own
force , and in the Execution of her
will , she is a Rocke Irremoueable :
She is the Kings Will , without
Contradiction , and the Iudges
doome , without Exception , the
Schollers profession , without Al-
teration , and the Souldiers Honor
without

without Comparison: In Summe
 so many are the groundes of her
 Grace, and the iust Causes of her
 Commendation, that, Leauing
 her worth, to the discription of
 better wits, I will in these few
 wordes, conclude my Conceits
 of her: She is the stoutnesse of the
 heart, and the strength of the
 minde, a gift of God, and, the
 glory of the World.

Honor.

HONOR is a Title of Grace
 giuen by the spirit of Ver-
 tue, to the desert of Valor, in the
 defence of Truth: it is wronged
 in basenesse, and abused in vn-
 worthinesse, endangered in wan-
 tonnesse, and lost in wickednesse:
 It nourisheth Art, and crowneth
 Wit.

Wit, graceth Learning, and glorifieth Wisedome : in the Herauldry of Heauen, it hath the richest Cote, being, in Nature Allied, vnto all the houses of Grace, which in the Heauen of heauens, attend the King of kings : Her Escucheon is a heart, in which, in the shield of faith, she beares on the Anckor of Hope, the Helmit of Saluation: she quarters with Wisedome in the Resolution of Valor, and in the line of Charitie, she is of the House of Iustice : Her Supporters are Time, and Patience, her Mantle, Truth, and her crest, Christ treading vpon the Globe of the world : her Imprese, *Corona mea, Christus* : In brieffe, finding her state so high, that I am not able to climbe vnto the praise of her perfection, I will leaue her Royalty to the Register of most Princely spirits,

spirits, and in my humble hearts
thus only deliuer my opinion of
her : She is Vertues due , and
Graces gift, Valors wealth , and
Reasons ioy.

Truth.

TRuth is the Glory of time,
and the daughter of Eterni-
ty : a Title of the highest Grace,
and, a Note of a diuine Nature :
she is the life of Religion , the
light of Loue, the Grace of Wit,
and the Crowne of Wisedome,
she is the Beauty of Valor , the
brightnesse of honor, the blessing
of reason , and the ioy of faith :
her truth is pure gold , her Time,
is right pretious, her word is most
gratious, and her will, is most
glorious : Her Essence is in God,
and

and, her dwelling with his seruants, her will in his wisedome, and her worke, to his Glory: she is honored in loue, and graced in constancie, in patience admired, and in charity, beloued: she is the Angels worshippe, the Virgins fame, the Saints blisse, and the Martirs crowne: she is the Kings Greatnesse, and his Councils, Goodnesse, his subiects Peace, and his kingdomes Praise: she is the life of learning, and the light of the Law, the honor of Trade, and the grace of labor: she hath a pure Eye, a plaine hand, a piercing wit and a perfect heart: she is wisedomes walke in the way of holinesse, and takes vp her rest, but, in the resolution of goodnes: Her tongue neuer trippes, her heart neuer faintes, her hand neuer failes, and her faith, neuer feares: her Church is without
D schisme

schisme, her City without fraude,
her Court, without Vanity, and
her kingdome, without Villany:
In summe, so infinite is her Excel-
lence, in the construction of all
sence, that I will thus only con-
clude in the wonder of her worth:
she is the Nature of perfection, in
the perfection of Nature, where
God, in Christ, shewes the glory
of Christianity.

Time.

Time is a continuall Motion,
which from the highest
Mouuer, hath his operation in
all the subjects of Nature, accor-
ding

ding to their qualitie, or disposition : He is in proportion, like a Circle, wherein, hee walketh with an euen passage, to the point of his prefixed place : Hee attendeth none, and yet is a servant to all; he is best employed by wisdom, and, most abused, by folly : He carrieth both the sworde and the scepter, for the vse both of Iustice, and Mercie : He is present in all Invention, and, can not be spared from Action : He is the Treasury of Graces in the Memory of the wise, and, bringes them forth to the world, vpon Necessity of their vse : He openeth the windowes of Heauen, to giue Light vnto the Earth, and, spreades the cloake of the Night to couer the Rest of labor : He closeth the Eie of Nature, and waketh the spirit of Reason, he trauelleth thorough

the minde, and is visible, but, to the Eie of Vnderstanding: He is swifter then the winde, and yet, as still, as a Stone, pretious in his right vse, but, perilous in the contrarie: He is soone founde of the carefull Soule, and quickly mist in the want of his comfort, he is soone lost in the lacke of Em- ployment, and not to be recou- red without a world of Ende- uour: he is the true mans peace, and the Theeues perdition, the good mans blessing, and the wic- ked mans curse: He is knowne to be, but, his being vnknowne, but only in his being, in a being a- boue knowledge: he is a Riddle not to be read, but in the circum- stance of description, his name, better knowne then his nature, and hee that maketh best vse of him, hath the best vnderstanding fo him: he is like the study of the
Philoso-

Philosophers stone, where, a man may see wonders, and yet short of his Expectation : hee is at the Inuention of warre, Armes the Souldier, Maintaines the quarrell, and makes the Peace : Hee is the Courtiers Play-fellow, and, the Souldiers Schole-master, the Lawyers Gaine, and the Merchantes, Hope : His life, is Motion, and his loue Action, his honor, Patience, and his glory, perfection : He masketh Modestie and blusheth Virginitie, honoreth Humilitie, and graceth, Charitie : In Summe, finding it a world to walke thorough the wonder of his Worth, I will thus briefly deliuer, what I finde truely of him : Hee is the Agent of the Liuing, and the Register of the dead, the

direction of God, and a great
Worke-master in the world.

Death.

DEATH is an ordinance of
God, for the subiecting of
the world, which is limited his
time for the correction of Pride;
in his substance, he is nothing, be-
ing but onely a deprivation, and in
his true description, a name with-
out a nature: He is seene, but in a
picture: heard, but in a tale: fea-
red, but in a passion: and felt, but
in a pinch: He is a terror, but to
the

the wicked, and a skar-crow, but
to the foolish : but to the wise, a
way of comfort, and to the godly,
the gate to life : He is the ease of
paine, and the end of sorrow, the
liberty of the imprisoned, and the
ioy of the faithfull : it is both the
wound of sinne, and the wages of
sinne, the Sinners feare, and the
Sinners doom. He is the Sextons
agent, and the Hangmans reue-
nue, the rich mans dirge, and the
Mourners merry-day. *Hee* is a
course of time, but vncertaine, till
hee come, and welcome but to
such, as are weary of their liues :
It is a message from the Physitian,
when the Patient is past cure, and
if the writ be well made, it is a
supra sedes for all diseases : It is
the heauens stroke, and the earthe
Steward, the follower of sicknesse,
and the forerunner to Hell. In

summe, hauing no pleasure to
ponder too much of the power of
it, I will thus conclude my opi-
nion of it; It is a stinge of sinne,
and the terror of the wicked, the
crowne of the Godly, the staire
of vengeance, and a stratagem of
the Deuill.

Faith.

FAITH is the hand of the
soule, which layeth hold of
the promises of Christ in the mer-
cy of the Almighty: Shee hath a
bright eye, and a holy eare, a
cleare

cleare heart, and a sure foot: shee
is the strength of Hope, the trust
of Truth, the honour of Amitie,
and the ioy of Loue: shee is rare
among the sonnes of men, and
hardly found among the daugh-
ters of weomen; but among the
sonnes of God, she is a conuey-
ance of their inheritance, and a-
mong the daughters of Grace, she
is the assurance of their portions.
Hir dwelling is in the Church of
God, hir conuersation with the
Saints of God, her delight with
the beloued of God, and her life is
in the loue of God: shee knowes
no falshood, distrusts no Truth,
breakes no promise, and coines no
excuse, but as bright as the Sunne,
as swift as the winde, as sure as the
rocke, and as pure as the gold, she
lookes towards heauen, but liues
in the world, in the soules of the
Elect:

Elect, to the glory of Election:
 she was wounded in Paradiſe, by a
 dart of the Deuill, and healed of
 her hurt, by the death of Chriſt
 Ieſus: ſhee is the poore mans cre-
 dit, and the rich mans praiſe, the
 wiſemans care, and the good mans
 cognizance. In ſumme, finding
 her worth, in words hardly to be
 expreſſed, I will in theſe few
 words onely deliuer my opinion of
 her: Shee is Gods bleſſing,
 and mans bliſſe, reaſons
 comfort, and ver-
 tues glory.

Feare

Feare.

FEARE is a fruit of sinne, which droue the first Father of our flesh, from the presence of God, and hath bred an imperfection in a number of the worse part of his posteritie: It is the disgrace of nature, the foile of reason, the maim of wit, and the slur of vnderstanding: It is the pallsie of the Spirit, where the Soule wanteth faith, and the badge of a Coward, that cannot abide the sight of a sword: It is weaknesse in nature, and a wound in patience, the death of hope, and the entrance into despaire: It is childrens awe, and fooles amazement, a worme in conscience, and a curse to wickednesse. In briebe, it makes the
Coward

Coward stagger, the Lye stam-
mer, the Thiefe stumble, and the
Traitor start: It is a blot in
Armes, a blur in Honour, the
shame of a Souldier, and
the defeat of an
Army.

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